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REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are canceled pursuant to the restriction requirement issued by the Examiner, without prejudice to filing a divisional application directed thereto. Claims 29 and 30 are amended to address the formal rejection issued by the Examiner, by deleting the term "mixture", such that it is clear that the spin mixtures of those claims can be devoid of the first polymer. Claim 30 is further amended to specify the nature of the pendant functional groups, consistent with those set forth in dependent claims 37-44. No new matter is added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 29-31 and 33-49 stand rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the current amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Harpell et al.

Claims 30-32, 34, 36, 45, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Harpell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,584,347). Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Harpell et al. disclose a modified polyolefin fiber made by incorporation of a polymeric additive in defined amounts into dilute spinning solutions of polyethylene and a solvent (col. 2, lines 19-21). The polymeric additive can be a graft polyolefin copolymer (col. 2, lines 35-39), wherein the graft monomer is acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, or styrene (col. 4, lines 35-38). Harpell et al. fails to disclose or suggest polymer additives having pendant (grafted) functional groups selected from the group consisting of fluorocarbon radicals, vinyl silane radicals, and oxyethylene radicals, as required by claim 30 hereof.

Accordingly, Harpell et al. fails to anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tabor et al.

Claims 30, 32, 33, 36, 45, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Tabor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,372,885). Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

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Tabor et al. disclose a method for making bicomponent fibers by contacting under thermally bonding conditions a first component of at least one high performance thermoplastic polymer, such as PET, and a second component which can be a linear polyethylene having pendant succinic acid or succinic anhydride groups (Abstract). Tabor et al. is directed to melt processing methods and fails to disclose a spin agent (solvent) whatsoever. Tabor et al. disclose that the two polymer components may be blended together prior to extrusion by either melt blending or dry blending of pellets (col. 7, lines 11-15).

Likewise, Tabor et al. fail to disclose or suggest that the pendant functional groups of their second component can be selected from the group consisting of fluorocarbon radicals, vinyl silane radicals, and oxyethylene radicals, as required by claim 30 hereof.

Accordingly, Tabor et al. fails to anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Nakagawa et al.

Claims 30, 32, 34, 36, 45, 46, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nakagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,772). Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Nakagawa et al. disclose polyolefin synthetic pulp made from mixtures of a grafted-polyolefin and a polyolefin resin composition of 0-50 wt% polyethylene resin and 50-100 wt% of an ethylene/ α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer resin. The grafted-polyolefin is graft-modified with an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof (col. 2, lines 25-40). Nakagawa et al. disclose a number of suitable unsaturated carboxylic acids/derivatives which can be used to graft-modify the polyolefin at column 4, lines 7-19.

Nakagawa et al. fail to disclose or suggest that the grafted (pendant) groups can be selected from the group consisting of fluorocarbon radicals, vinyl silane radicals, and oxyethylene radicals, as required by claim 30 hereof.

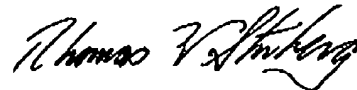
Accordingly, Nakagawa et al. fails to anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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